



## ***Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission Tuesday, October 28, 2014 Meeting Minutes***

Minneapolis Central Library, Doty Board Room  
300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN

**NCEC member attendees:** Matthew Dobratz, Doron Clark, Eric Gustafson, Denis Houle, Ishmael Israel, Maleta Kimmons, Kenya McKnight, Kirk Roggensack, Francisco Segovia, Jeffrey Strand, Carol Pass, David Zaffrann and Tessa Wetjen.

**NCEC members excused:** Debra Behrens, Andy Hortillosa and Brittany Lewis

**NCEC members absent:**

**Commission staff:** David Rubedor, Howard Blin and Cheyenne Brodeen

**Guests:** Harry Harris, Tiffany Fredrick, Shirley Yeoman, Ethan Nelson, James Cook, Happy Reynolds, Gary Arntsen and Steve Brandt.

- 1. Public Comment:** James Cook gave public comment and shared that he has had problems with his neighborhood group in the past and that the city should be cautious in funding neighborhood organizations.

Happy Reynolds gave public comment and suggested that we should look at involved processes of neighborhood organizations and make sure they aren't prohibitive.

### **2. Introduction (Action):**

The meeting was called to order at 5:31pm with Israel in the Chair.

**Agenda:** Wetjen moves to approve the agenda by changing agenda item 6C to informational and 6D to Action and add agenda item 3C for a Strategic Plan Update, Roggensack Seconds the motion. Agenda Approved.

### **3. Executive Committee Reports (Informational and Action):**

**Chair's Report:** Chair Israel thanked NCEC Committee Chairs for their hard work.

#### **Secretary Report:**

##### **A. Minutes:**

**Motion:** Strand moves to approve the minutes, McKnight Seconds the motion. Roggensack abstains. Motion carried.

- B. Attendance Report:** Commissioner Strand reported on attendance. Commissioners Lewis and Behrens are excused. Commissioner Clark will be late. Quorum was present.

Commissioner Hortillosa has resigned effective November 1<sup>st</sup>.

- C. Strategic Plan Update:** Commissioner Wetjen updated the commission on the status of the NCEC Strategic Planning process.

**Motion:** Wetjen moved to have a specific strategic planning meeting in January 2015 and move forward the necessary steps to plan for that strategic planning meeting. Strand 2nds the motion. Motion Approved.

#### **4. NCR Budget(Discussion)**

**Summary:** NCR Director David Rubedor shared The Mayor's 2015 budget for the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department was presented to the City Council's budget committee on Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. At the meeting, I intend to review with the NCEC the same budget presentation given to the City Council. This will give the NCEC an overview of the NCR budget, the proposed enhancements, and the structural changes being proposed. Here are some highlights for the 2015 NCR Budget:

1. Neighborhood funding remains stable at the 2014 levels with an inflationary increase,
2. Overall budget increase of 8.9%,
3. Decrease in General Fund allocation of \$230,000,
4. Increase in Consolidated Tax Increment Financing (ConTIF),
5. Budget structural changes shifting some department operations from General Fund to ConTIF,
6. Expanded use of the ConTIF.

The 2015 proposed budget includes a number of program and service enhancements for the department. These budget enhancements include:

1. One Minneapolis Fund (\$150,000 ongoing increase): Provides small grants to community based organizations for leadership training and community engagement activities.
2. ADA Title II Compliance (\$150,000 one-time increase): Provides evaluation and significant updating of City programs and services for compliance with ADA Title II requirements.
3. Community Participation Program Increase (\$120,000 ongoing increase) Inflationary 3% increase for 2015 funding cycle.
4. New Neighborhood Specialist Position (\$80,000 on going increase): Increase staffing by 1 FTE to add an additional Neighborhood Support Specialist.
5. Evaluation of Neighborhood Programs (\$70,000 one-time increase): One-time funding to conduct an evaluation of current neighborhood funding programs.

There has also been discussion about the remaining NRP fund balance. This includes a recent article in the Star Tribune. At the meeting, we will review the status of the NRP fund balance.

Director Rubedor provided details about the NRP Fund Balance; \$33.9 Million balance; Approx. \$24 Million came back to NRP as program income.

Significant dates coming up include:

November 3, 2014	Presentation to the City Council's Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee about the NRP Fund Balance
November 17, 2014	Presentation to the City Council's Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee about the history of NRP/NCR.
November 18, 2014	City Council public comment meeting.
December 10, 2014	City Council public hearing
December 12, 2014	City Council meeting for budget adoption

#### **Discussion:**

- Wetjen shared a statement on behalf of the One Minneapolis Fund Committee "The One Minneapolis Committee recognizes that the use of TIF funding to support the 1 MPLS Fund marks a change in practice for the city budget. If the TIF funds are used in this way, then CPP supported organizations *will* be eligible to apply for 1 MPLS funding. If this decision is reversed and TIF funds are not used in the 1 MPLS Fund, then CPP supported organizations would *not* be eligible for funding."
- Gustafson asked what the status was of the suggested informational meeting.
  - Rubedor responded and said that that idea is still open for discussion and that there is a meeting being added in the City Process for Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:30p.m. the Department is also adding budget information to our website.
- Clark mentioned that the Northeast Minneapolis Neighborhoods are holding a meeting to discuss the budget.
- Segovia mentioned that demographics are lumped together, such as African Americans and Africans.
  - Rubedor said that they are used for comparative purposes via the U.S. Census.
- McKnight mentioned that all terms represent many ethnic groups.
- Roggensack questioned if the NCEC as a Commission should make a statement.
- Strand commented that there seems to be a lack of a good public engagement process for this budget. He said that neighborhoods are still recovering from the 2010 budget decision and extra uses for neighborhood funds should only be taken after broad public engagement.
- Houle questioned if the NCEC made a statement, would it be listened to.
- Pass said that the legislature should define the use of the NRP funds. She also said that neighborhoods are counting down the years they have left as organizations.
- Zaffrann commented that there should be more clarity in what the funds would be used for.

**Motion:** Clark moves to table the remainder of the agenda, except item 6B to discuss a strategy for the 2015 Budget Process. Wetjen Seconds the motion. Israel abstains. Motion Carried.

Motion: Clark moves to hold a Special NCEC Meeting to be called by the Executive Committee. Strand Seconds the motion. Motion Carried.

## **6. Committee Task Force Reports: (Action)**

- B. One Minneapolis Fund Committee:** Wetjen reviewed the Year One Program Report and the 2015 One Minneapolis Fund RFP. The group held a discussion on whether or not to include a statement as it relates to the use of the funds based on the outcomes of the 2015 Budget.

**Motion:** Wetjen moves to approve the One Minneapolis Fund RFP as presented with the budget statement included, only if there isn't a decision made on the budget before it is presented to city council, Clark Seconds the motion. Motion Carried.

**Motion:** Strand moves to Amend the main motion add the statement regarding One Minneapolis Funding (same statement Wetjen read as first bullet point under Discussion). Clark Seconds the motion. Motion to Amend Carried. Main Motion Carried.

## **Adjourn:**

Motion Zaffrann second Kimmons to adjourn. Motion carried. The October 28, 2014 meeting was adjourned by Chair Israel at 7:13p.m.